During the dark days of the early 1940's, a covert military experiment turned Steve Rogers into America's first Super-Soldier, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Throughout the war, Cap and his partner Bucky fought alongside our infantry and with a group of heroes known as the Invaders. In the closing months of WWII, Captain America and Bucky were both presumed dead in an explosion over the English Channel.

Decades later, a figure was found trapped in ice, and Captain America was revived. Having slept through more than half of the 20th century, Steve Rogers awakened to a world he never imagined, a world where war had moved from the battlefield to the city streets.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA

ACT 2

THE BURDEN OF DREAMS: PART FOUR

Captain America is dead. The Red Skull, with the help of megalomaniacal psychiatrist Dr. Faustus, manipulated Sharon Carter, former Agent 13 of S.H.I.E.L.D., into taking the life of the man she loved.

Cap's former partner Bucky has been seeking vengeance on the men he feels are responsible for the death of Steve Rogers. After escaping from the Red Skull with Sharon Carter's help, Bucky is immediately arrested by the Falcon and Black Widow and brought to Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, now the director of S.H.I.E.L.D. Tony shows Bucky a letter that Steve Rogers wrote before his death, asking Iron Man to look after Bucky and to keep Captain America alive.

Bucky agrees to don the costume of Captain America and go after the Red Skrull. However, Aleksander Lukin, the ex-Soviet General whose mind the Red Skull has secretly been sharing, appears to have died in a plane crash...

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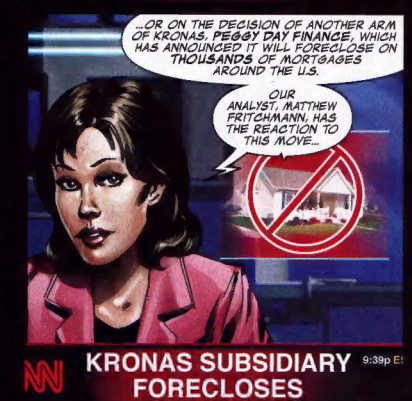
IT CAN ALL FALL APART SO QUICKLY THAT WE DON'T EVEN REALIZE IT...HOW FRAGILE THIS COUNTRY--THIS SOCIETY--REALLY IS.
PEOPLE GROW COMPLACENT OR LOOK THE OTHER WAY, WHILE THE THINGS THAT HOLD US TOGETHER ERODE OR ARE SOLD OFF.

AND THEN IT ALL COMES CRASHING DOWN...
SHOCKING INCREASES IN WORLDWIDE OIL PRICES IN THE WAKE OF ENERGY GIANT KRONAS CORPORATION'S LOSS OF CEO ALEKSANDER LUKIN...
DOW JONES
...HAVE LED TO ANOTHER DISASTROUS DAY ON WALL STREET, WITH THE DOW PLUNGING TO ITS LOWEST LEVELS IN THIRTY YEARS.
WALL STREET DISASTER
9:38p E

NEW KRONAS CEO VLADMIR MOROVIN HAS YET TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THEIR MOVE TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PRICE PER BARREL...
N502W
NEW KRONAS CEO VLAD MOROVIN
9:38p E


...OR ON THE DECISION OF ANOTHER ARM OF KRONAS, PEGGY DAY FINANCE, WHICH HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL FORECLOSE ON THOUSANDS OF MORTGAGES AROUND THE U.S.
OUR ANALYST, MATTHEW FRITCHMANN, HAS THE REACTION TO THIS MOVE...
KRONAS SUBSIDIARY FORECLOSES
9:39p E

WELL TONI, UNTIL THERE'S SOME OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR KRONAS'S ACTIONS THE PAST TWO DAYS... ALL I CAN SAY IS, NEW CEO MOROVIN MUST HATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE...
MORTGAGE CRISIS LINKED TO KRONAS CORP
9:39p E

WHILE SOME OF THE HOMES BEING FORECLOSED ON WERE PART OF THE SUB-PRIME LENDING SCANDAL OF EARLIER THIS YEAR...
MORTGAGE CRISIS 2008
...MOST ARE SIMPLY HOMES OF HARDWORKING AMERICANS WHO FAILED TO READ THE FINE PRINT.

NN MORTGAGE CRISIS LINKED TO KRONAS CORP 9:40p E

AND, AS WE ALREADY SAW LAST NIGHT, THEY'RE TAKING TO THE STREETS IN PROTEST.
ONE THING IS FOR SURE...THE U.S. ECONOMY IS VERY SUDDENLY ON THE BRINK, AND FOR ONCE, ITS CITIZENS ARE NOTICING.

NN PROTESTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS 9:40p E

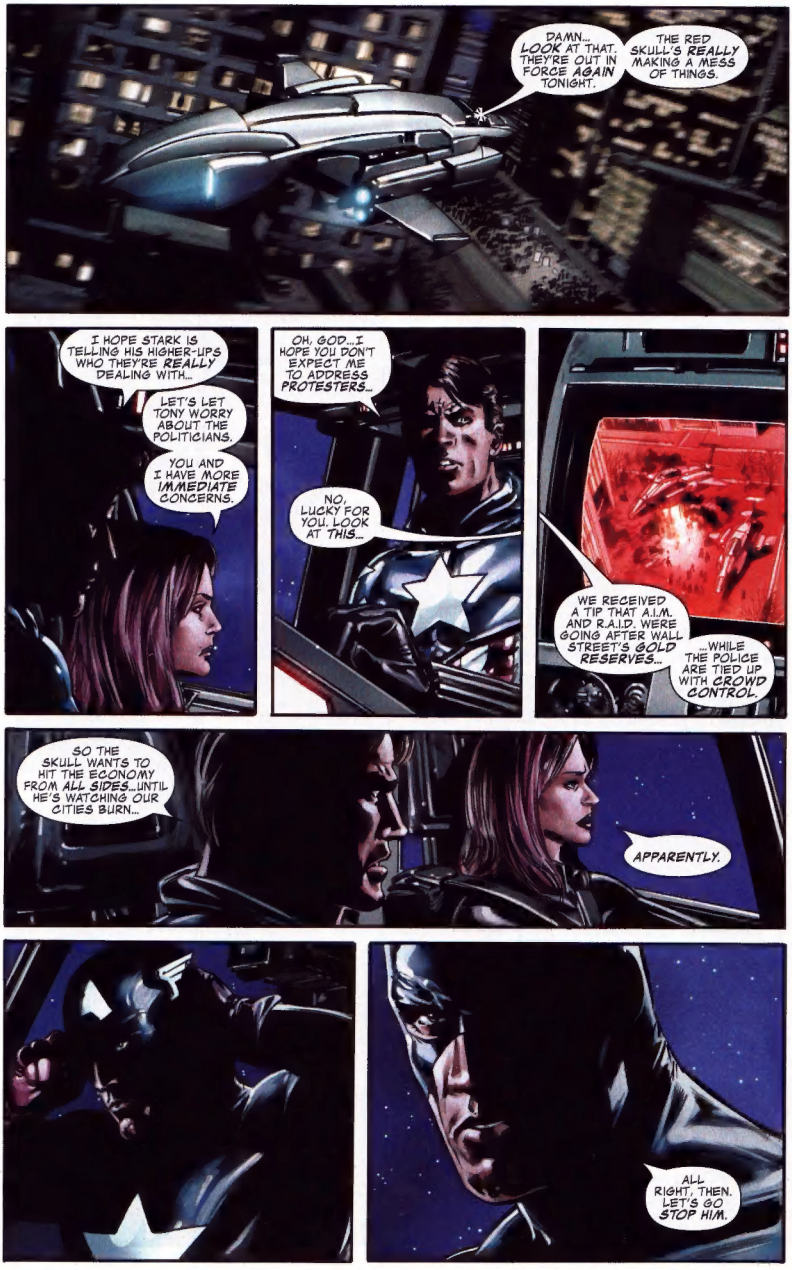
NN PROTESTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS 9:41p E

NN EXPERTS WARN OF ECONOMIC DISASTER 9:41p E

BUT I CAN'T HELP NOTICING THAT EVEN THOUGH I TOLD STARK I WOULDN'T ANSWER TO HIM...
...THE FIRST TIME I'M NEEDED, IT'S YOU THAT SHOWS UP, NATALIA.
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY ORDERS.
I'M JUST HERE TO GIVE YOU A RIDE... AND SOME HELP.
NOT TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.?
S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS NO RECORD OF YOUR EXISTENCE.
NOT ANYMORE.
DIRECTOR STARK'S DEAL WITH YOU WAS PERSONAL.
HE CAN'T BE SEEN TO PUBLICLY ADVOCATE AN UNREGISTERED HERO.

BUT HERE YOU ARE...AN AVENGER.
HOW'S HE GOING TO ANSWER THAT IF IT GETS OUT?
AH, WELL...I'M THE BLACK WIDOW...
I LIVE AMONG SHADES OF GREY.
NOW, ARE YOU PLANNING TO FINISH SUITING UP OR ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS?
HELL, I'M WAY PAST SECOND THOUGHTS.. BUT THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.
NO, THERE NEVER IS.
BUT I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU DESIGNING A NEW SUIT WITH TONY.
I COULD NEVER WEAR STEVE'S UNIFORM.
I'M NOT HIM AND I WON'T PRETEND I AM.
YET YOU'RE TRYING TO FULFILL HIS LAST WISHES. STRANGE.
JUST 'CAUSE I'M NOT HIM DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T HONOR HIS MEMORY.

AND STARK WAS RIGHT...
I WOULD NEVER HAVE LET ANYONE ELSE DO THIS.
YES, I REMEMBER.
AND I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING WITH THAT SHIELD SINCE YOU STOLE IT FROM ME.
BUT THAT GUN ON YOUR HIP TELLS ME...MAYBE NOT.
DON'T WORRY. I CAN HANDLE THE SHIELD...
MY ARM MAKES ME ONE OF THE FEW WHO COULD, PROBABLY.
SO, WHY THE WEAPONRY, THEN?
I'VE ALWAYS CARRIED WEAPONS, AND NOW THAT I'VE PAINTED A RED, WHITE AND BLUE TARGET ON MYSELF...
I'M GUESSING I'M GONNA NEED THEM MORE THAN EVER.
GOOD POINT.


DAMN... LOOK AT THAT. THEY'RE OUT IN FORCE AGAIN TONIGHT.
THE RED SKULL'S REALLY MAKING A MESS OF THINGS.
I HOPE STARK IS TELLING HIS HIGHER-UPS WHO THEY'RE REALLY DEALING WITH...
LET'S LET TONY WORRY ABOUT THE POLITICIANS.
YOU AND I HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS.
OH, GOD...I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO ADDRESS PROTESTERS...
NO, LUCKY FOR YOU. LOOK AT THIS...
WE RECEIVED A TIP THAT A.I.M. AND R.A.I.D. WERE GOING AFTER WALL STREET'S GOLD RESERVES...
...WHILE THE POLICE ARE TIED UP WITH CROWD CONTROL.
SO THE SKULL WANTS TO HIT THE ECONOMY FROM ALL SIDES...UNTIL HE'S WATCHING OUR CITIES BURN...
APPARENTLY.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. LET'S GO STOP HIM.

OUR CLOCK IS TICKING, PEOPLE!
YOU TWO, GET THOSE TURBO-WALKERS DOWN HERE--STAT!
ONCE WE BREACH THAT WALL, WE HAVE ABOUT TWO MINUTES UNTIL EVERYTHING IN A UNIFORM OR A MASK GETS HERE!
AND I WANT US LONG GONE BY THEN!
REMEMBER, THE RED SKULL REWARDS ONLY THOSE WHO--
HEY, WHAT'S--
BLAANG

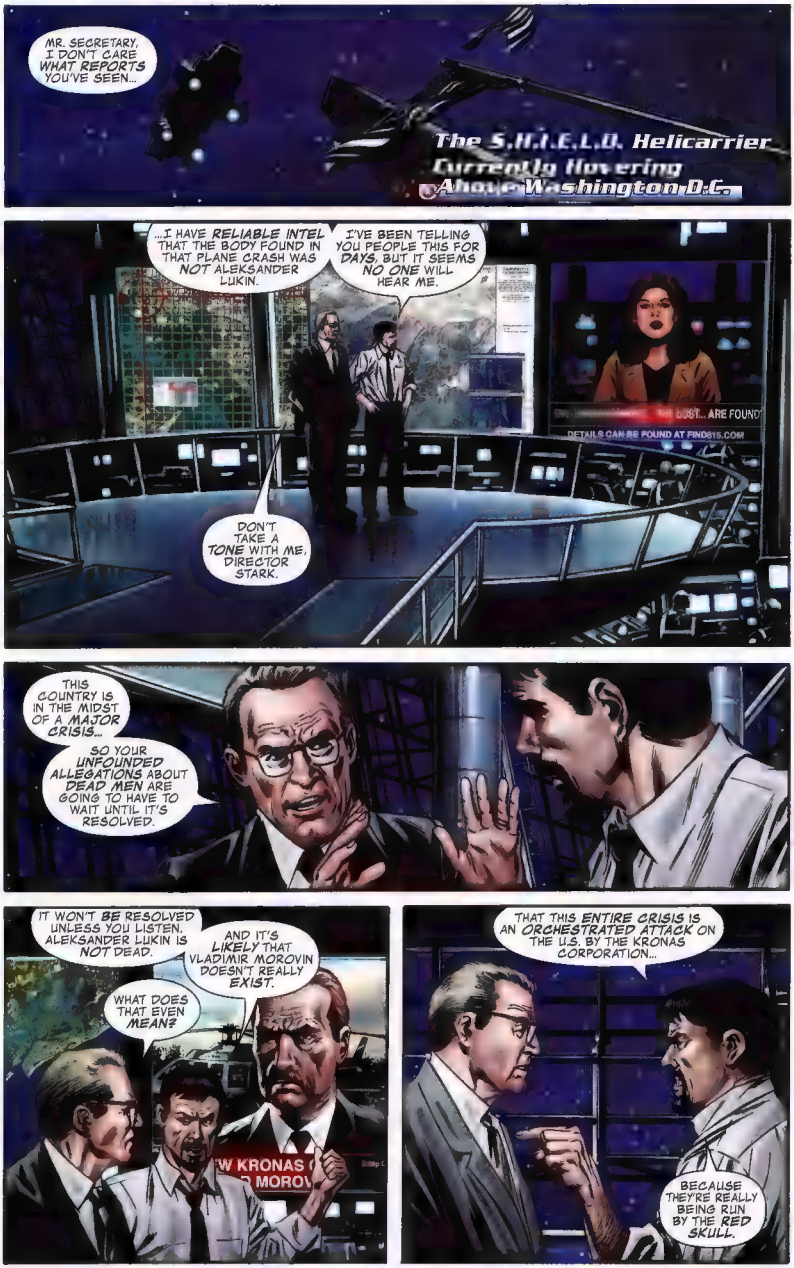
SORRY. I GUESS WE'RE EARLY.
NO EVIL NAZI REWARDS FOR YOU.

WHO THE HELL--?
KRAK
TAKE THEM!
TURBO-WALKERS--OPEN FIRE!
CHUDD CHUDD CHUDD
UHN!
THIS ISN'T MY USUAL KIND OF FIGHT.

WIDOW--COVER ME!
WE GOTTA TAKE THOSE THINGS DOWN!
NOT SINCE THE WAR, AT LEAST.
STOP TALKING AND JUST DO IT!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SHOOT HIM, DAMN YOU!
CHUDD CHUDD
CHARGING RIGHT IN...STEVE WAS ALWAYS BETTER AT THAT.
KRSSHHH
OF COURSE, STEVE WAS ABOUT THREE TIMES STRONGER AND FASTER THAN ME, TOO.
WHUDD

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T FOUGHT WHOLE HORDES OF BAD GUYS IN MY DAY.
I'M JUST MORE USED TO DOING IT COVERTLY AND TAKING OUT SPECIFIC TARGETS.
TACTICAL HITS DESIGNED TO DO THE MOST HARM WITH THE LEAST EFFORT.
AND USING THE ENEMY'S STRENGTHS AGAINST THEM.
BUT THOSE METHODS STILL WORK.
NOOO!
CHUDD
THEY JUST NEED A LITTLE ADAPTING.
KKRIPPP
YAAA!!!

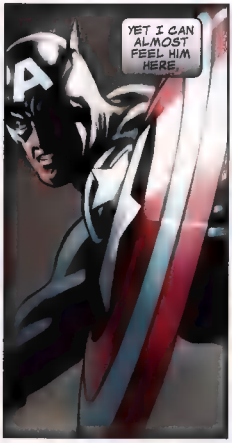
THE SHIELD HELPS A LOT. IT SLOWS THEM DOWN.
YAAAAHHH!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SHHNNK
PUTS A SCARE IN THEM, BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHO'S SUPPOSED TO CARRY IT...
SMAAK
KA-WHOOM
...BUT THEY STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE HELL I AM.


MR. SECRETARY, I DON'T CARE WHAT REPORTS YOU'VE SEEN...
The S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier Currently Hovering Above Washington, D.C.
...I HAVE RELIABLE INTEL THAT THE BODY FOUND IN THAT PLANE CRASH WAS NOT ALEKSANDER LUKIN.
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU PEOPLE THIS FOR DAYS, BUT IT SEEMS NO ONE WILL HEAR ME.
DON'T TAKE A TONE WITH ME, DIRECTOR STARK.
DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT FIND615.COM
THIS COUNTRY IS IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR CRISIS...
SO YOUR UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS ABOUT DEAD MEN ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL IT'S RESOLVED.
IT WON'T BE RESOLVED UNLESS YOU LISTEN, ALEKSANDER LUKIN IS NOT DEAD.
AND IT'S LIKELY THAT VLADIMIR MOROVIN DOESN'T REALLY EXIST.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
THAT THIS ENTIRE CRISIS IS AN ORCHESTRATED ATTACK ON THE U.S. BY THE KRONAS CORPORATION...
BECAUSE THEY'RE REALLY BEING RUN BY THE RED SKULL.

Somewhere In Upstate New York
WHAT NEWS FROM YOUR FIELD SQUADS IN THE CITY? HAVE THEY SECURED THE GOLD RESERVES?
THEY ARE NOT MY SQUADRONS, HERR SKULL...I DID NOT TRAIN THEM.
I HOPE THAT ISN'T SOME FORM OF PASSING BLAME FOR FAILURE, ZOLA.
THEY HAVE NOT REPORTED IN... THIS IS ALL I KNOW FOR NOW.
FORGIVE ME IF I HAVE OTHER MORE PRESSING MATTERS AT HAND.
BUT YOU WANTED THE CHAMBER READY, DID YOU NOT?
AND THE SCHEMATICS FOR FAUSTUS'S CONTRAPTION UPGRADED?
YES...SO I DID.
IT MATTERS LITTLE, IN ANY CASE...WE'VE ALREADY KNOCKED THEM TO THEIR KNEES.
I MERELY WANT TO KEEP THEM THERE UNTIL WE STRIKE THE KILLING BLOW.
AND IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR FAUSTUS TO ACTIVATE HIS FIRST WAVE...YOU SHOULD COME WATCH THIS WITH ME, ZOLA.
I THINK THAT YOU'LL APPRECIATE THE IRONY OF IT.
I AM CERTAIN OF THAT, HERR SKULL.

HAVE TO ADMIT, IT FEELS WEIRD... TO BE WEARING THE FLAG.
TO BE CARRYING STEVE'S SHIELD.
FIGHTING, THAT FEELS NATURAL.
BUT FIGHTING FOR THE BIGGER CAUSE?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAD ONE OF THOSE.
HOLD HIM OFF!
KEEP HIM BACK!
IT DOES REMIND ME OF THE WAR, THOUGH.

STEVE ISN'T LEADING THE WAY UP THE BATTLEFIELD...


YET I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIM HERE.

BUT HE'S GUIDING ME NOW... INSTEAD OF HAUNTING ME.

I CAN'T BE HIM.

UH-OH...

NO ONE EVER COULD.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, HUNH?
YEAH, RIGHT...

BUT I CAN TRY TO MAKE HIM PROUD...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
AAHH!
UHHGH!
#@@%%!
ACTUALLY...
I DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
BNNK
...IN MY OWN WAY.

NICELY DONE.
YOU WEREN'T TRYING TOO HARD TO HELP, I NOTICE.
HEY, THIS WAS MEANT TO BE YOUR SHOW... NOT MINE.

SO, WHAT NOW?
I'M CALLING IN A CLEANUP CREW NOW, SO WE CAN GET BACK IN THE AIR...

THERE'S CHAOS ALL OVER THIS CITY, AND IN D.C. AND CHICAGO, TOO... AND IT'S LIKELY TO SPREAD.
WHO KNOWS WHERE WE'LL BE NEEDED NEXT?

DAMN IT.. WE'RE TWO STEPS BEHIND WHEN WE SHOULD BE TRACKING HIM DOWN.
THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS US TO BE DOING.

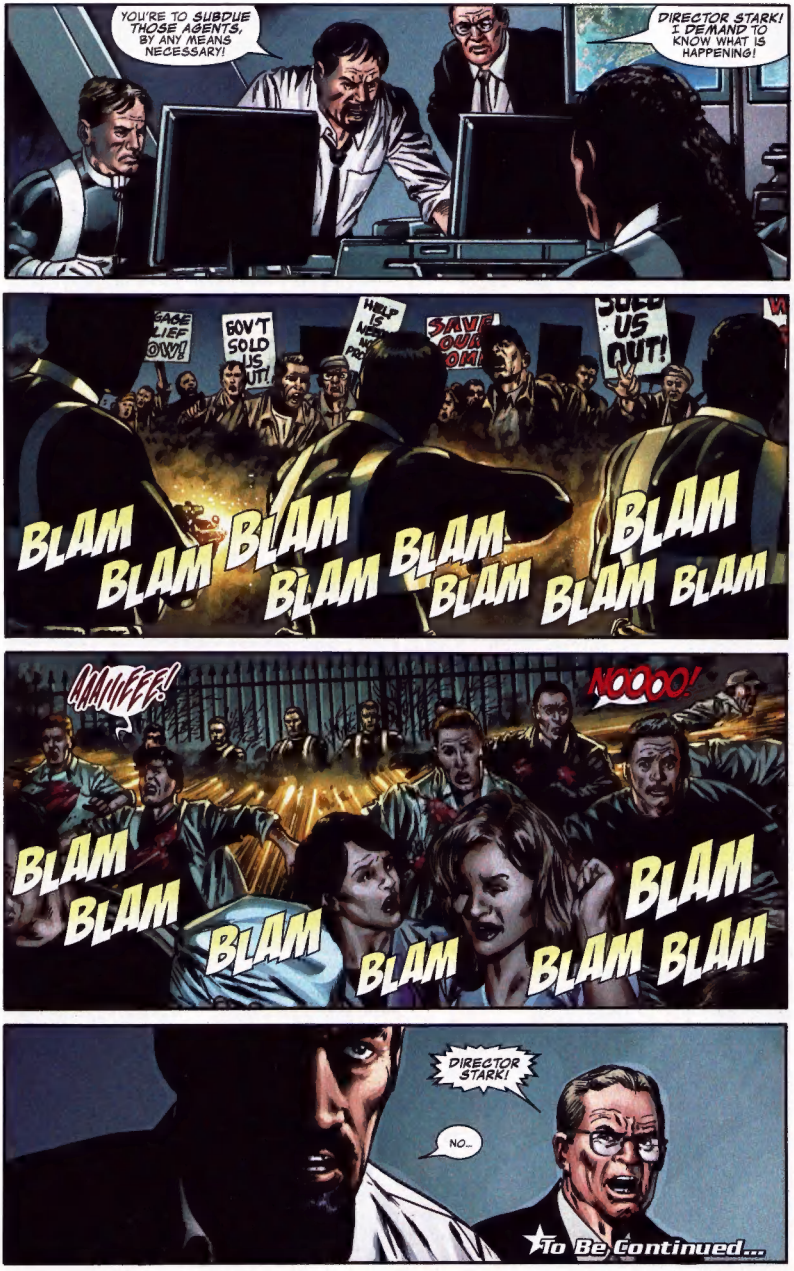
NO, THE RED SKULL WANTED ANOTHER WAVE OF ECONOMIC FEAR TO RIP THROUGH THE COUNTRY..WE JUST STOPPED THAT.
AND WE'LL KEEP AT IT.

THAT'S WHAT CAPTAIN AMERICA DOES, REMEMBER?
YEAH, I GUESS IT IS.

THAT...THAT CAN'T BE TRUE. THAT'S AN OUTRAGEOUS ALLEGATION.
LOOK AROUND YOU, SECRETARY.
WE'VE GOT NEAR-RIOT CONDITIONS IN FOUR MAJOR METROPOLISES TONIGHT.
THE STOCK MARKET IS HANGING BY A THREAD...
SELL OUTS
PROTESTERS MARCH
news 9
I'VE EVEN GOT S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS KEEPING A MOB IN CHECK OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE.
MORTGAGE RELIEF NOW!
SELL OUTS
SAVE OUR HOMES
US GOVT SOLD US OUT!
FORECLOSE ON THE WHITE HOUSE
IF SOMEONE HATED US... IF SOMEONE WANTED TO REALLY CRIPPLE THIS COUNTRY...
...ISN'T THIS WHAT THE FIRST STEPS WOULD LOOK LIKE?
NO...KRONAS IS JUST...THEY'RE PLAYING HARDBALL.
TRYING TO RAISE FIRST QUARTER PROFITS OR...
HOW MUCH HAVE THEY DONATED TO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?

WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU--
I KNOW HOW CORPORATIONS AND POLITICS WORK, MR. SECRETARY.
DIRECTOR STARK.
NOT NOW.
IT'S IMPORTANT, SIR.
WE JUST GOT A FIX ON OUR MISSING AGENTS. THEIR GPS TAGS ALL JUST WENT LIVE.
WHAT? WHERE?
THEY'RE IN D.C., SIR...
"...IN THE CROWD CONTROL UNIT."
SAVE OUR HOM
FASCISTS! GIVE US BACK OUR COUNTRY!
YOU PEOPLE SOLD US OUT! SOLD OUR COUNTRY!

ALL WASHINGTON GROUND UNITS, THIS IS DIRECTOR STARK!
WE HAVE ROGUE AGENTS IN THE FIELD!
WHAT'S GOING ON, STARK?!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS...IT'S TIME...
...SHOW THEM WHAT THE GOOD DOCTOR'S TRAINING IS FOR.
IT'S TIME.
IT'S TIME.
IT'S TIME.
NO...MOVE IT. GET UP ON THE ROOF. WE WANT AN EXTREME ANGLE.
OKAY, MOLLY...JUST GET INTO POSITION.


YOU'RE TO SUBDUE THOSE AGENTS, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!
DIRECTOR STARK! I DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING!
GOV'T SOLD US OUT!
SOLD US OUT!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
AAAIIEEE!
NOOOO!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
DIRECTOR STARK!
NO...
To Be Continued...